

Blues return from the sun

SUN tanned and a little weary, Wycombe Wanderers returned from the 80 degree heat of Rimini to the pouring rain at Gatwick on Monday evening after an enjoyable seven day tour in Italy.

When they arrived in Rimini, Wanderers were hoping to play two friendly matches against the town club and neighbouring Riccione. Unfortunately both teams were involved in struggles against relegation and only one game was arranged.

Even though Thursday's friendly at Rimini was a decidedly tame affair with Rimini's manager refereeing the game to ensure against

injury, it provided the Blues with a new experience and the facilities were first class.

Wycombe were 4-0 down at one stage in the Italians' superb stadium which holds 20,000. But they fought back to 4-2 with a brilliant goal by Derek Cotterell and another from the veteran Tony Horseman.

Cotterell, who scored from 25 yards, was one of seven guests on tour the others being Ian Bath (Hayes), Eddie Junger (Burnham), Steve Voss, Neil Wheeldon (Loughborough College), Bill Salkeld (Staines) and Geoff Anthony (Hayes).

Despite the disappointment of playing just the one match, the players certainly enjoyed their stay in Italy where the weather and hotel were well nigh perfect.

It was announced on tour that Wycombe's leading goalscorer last season, Ian Pearson, would be touring next month with Millwall, the Second Division club. Ian will also be joining the club for a week later in the year.



DEREK COTTERELL
... brilliant goal